

As proposed by Mr. Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, I would like to endorse his 13 WPM requirement for the amateur radio service as it's one of the most reliable and discreet form of communications in case of emergency.

In terrorism situations for example, it can be used to send a message very discreetly without anyone noticing anything simply by keying the Push To Talk button of a transceiver on one's lap for instance.

Also, a morse code message in CW mode can be transmitted at very far distances in an emergency situation while using only a fraction of the power required to pass a phone message in SSB.

Furthermore, in the event that the audio stage of a transmitter or if the microphone is missing, CW can still be used to send and receive a distress call to remote stations.

For instance, I bought two radios off the internet that will no longer work in SSB for whatever reason but will still work just fine in CW.

If the requirement for morse code was to be eliminated as proposed by the Amateur Radio Relay League, it would be pointless to try to send a distress call in CW since most hams monitoring the frequency would be unable of decoding such message at the other end.

Also, CW signals being so narrow in bandwidth compared to phone or most digital modes occupy by nature only a fraction of the bandwidth used by phone signals thus allowing more hams to communicate on a specific band at a certain time.

Ham radio operators have proved to be very useful in case of national or local emergencies not only due to the equipment that we own but mostly due to the seriousness that we give our hobby.

I believe that people that don't want to sit down and learn the code are people who 'generally' lack the seriousness that international communications require.

If someone has to 'work' and 'study' hard in order to get his or her licence, I believe there is a better chance that they become serious and consciencious amateur radio operators better equiped to be of service if required to do so by authorities and less likely to generate willingful interference to other communications because they worked so hard to get their license in the first place.

Especially in these times of government cut-backs (namely at the FCC enforcement level), I believe this to be more than ever a must have in order to keep our bands and communications working smoothly.

Thank you so much for listening.

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